



Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

July 11, 2008
Morning Highlights 2008-48

Contact:
Public Affairs, 356-5511

ALASKA FIRE UPDATE

New Fires

Six new fires were reported yesterday. Three of those fires were lightning caused, found in the Upper Yukon Zone, and add up to 19.1 acres burned, so far. Two of those fires were reported in military ownership; one of was started by tracer rounds and is out, the other was found to be smoke from a construction burn and declared a false alarm.

The sixth fire, The Campbell Creek Fire, was reported in the Mat-Su area. Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) and helitack responded. Upon arrival helitack deployed a bucket to work the leading edge, and along with AFD, helitack crewmembers worked hotspots and extinguished the fire. Campbell Creek Fire was declared out at 14:20.

Staffed Fires

The Goose Slough Fire, burning 7 miles north of Bettles, at 1,300 acres has more than doubled in size since yesterday. Due to thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening, shifting and erratic winds caused torching and running. Spotting was observed 100 feet from the head of the fire. Yesterday crews continued allotment protection on the John River and the Wild River. The Pioneer Peak crew has been reassigned to Goose Slough from The Porcupine Ridge Fire and is expected to arrive this evening. There is also a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) in place around the fire.

The Kashunuk River Fire, burning 20 miles southeast of St. Mary's, is estimated to be 280 acres. Eight smokejumpers were dropped at the fire yesterday afternoon. Fire activity was reported as creeping and backing into the wind. The fire is 5% active and shows no visible flames. Demob has been estimated for tomorrow.

The Porcupine Ridge Fire, 10 miles north/northwest of McGrath, was declared contained yesterday at 2000. Several loads of backhaul and the Chevak EFF Crew were demobed yesterday. The fire is set to be controlled this afternoon.

The Russian Mountain Fire, near Aniak, was declared controlled at 2200 yesterday. Demob operations are scheduled for later this afternoon.

The Bear Creek fire, near Clear, was gridded with no smokes found yesterday. All resources were demobed, and the fire was declared out at 1453, yesterday.

GENERAL SUMMARY

According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, so far this year 308 fires have burned 57,893.7 acres statewide. Currently 50 fires are active in Alaska, four are staffed.

ATTENTION PILOTS!

There is a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) in place near Bettles, so please avoid that airspace. And please avoid ALL fires, even if there are no TFRs as firefighters may be taking action to suppress, monitor and map fires.

NATIONAL SITUATION

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, fire managers are still concerned about the large fires in California, where 24 fires/complexes are still burning. Several communities throughout the state have been evacuated. Firefighters around the country were able to contain eight large fires yesterday, one each in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information about permitted burn restrictions, please contact your local Division of Forestry office:

<i>Fairbanks Area:</i>	907-451-2626
<i>Delta Area:</i>	907-895-2106
<i>Tok Area:</i>	907-883-5134
<i>Mat-Su District:</i>	907-761-6312
<i>Kenai-Kodiak Area:</i>	907-260-4269
<i>Valdez/ Copper River Area:</i>	907-822-5536
<i>Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):</i>	907-766-2120

For additional State of Alaska burn permit information, please visit:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>

*In Anchorage, please contact the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation Office at 267-5020.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>

- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info):
(907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Kelsa Shilanski, Alaska Division of Forestry, and Doug Stockdale, Alaska Fire Service. Note: Fire acreage estimates frequently change due to more accurate mapping and other factors.

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